Preface

Please read the art notes for *A Case of Dragonslayer* first, as these notes assume knowledge from the first book.

Title:
Inside the Apocalypse Castle
□□□□□ (lit. Purple Husk/Skeleton Castle Case… I'll stick with Apocalypse Castle in the notes)

No known planned English release for this novel like Dragonslayer had.

The second of six current novels in the *Jiken* series.

Publication:
June 6th, 2001 by Kodansha. Exactly a year after Dragonslayer.
□□□

Republished September 20th, 2018 by Kodansha. Changes include the replacement of Kaneko's art and an added epilogue.
□□□

Author:
Kouhei Kadano
□□□ □□

Born December 12th, 1968. Most known for his Boogiepop series of novels.

Artists:
Kazuma Kaneko, 2001 release.
□□□□

Born September 20th, 1964.

Yasushi Suzuki, 2018 release.
□□ □□

Replaced Kaneko's art in the 2018 reprint, you can read more about him in the Dragonslayer art notes. Same deal as last time, basically. Some of his designs retain Kaneko's original designs but look different enough to avoid copyright, and some look entirely different, to the point where I couldn't tell you who is who for the life of me. His more original stuff is great though, check it out if you get the time.

Story:
Apocalypse Castle is a bit more disconnected from the other *Jiken* books story-wise, if anything contributing to the atmosphere of seclusion and hopelessness reiterated throughout the novel. That’s not to say some characters introduced in this novel won’t play key roles in later ones.

The story follows protagonist Colonel Mage Floss Floraid of the Republic of Hissibal, a renowned hero invited to referee for the Magical Limit Determination Tournament, an event designed to push the limits of magic in which they can determine only one mage as the victor. The event takes place in the Apocalypse Castle, a place thought to be cursed after a war that occurred there 300 years ago (and it’s in the middle of a huge forest, spooky). While trapped inside, people begin to die of mysterious and horrific causes. Floraid takes up the task of finding the culprit to bring an end to the bloodshed and to bring honour to his country.

Characters:
- Colonel Mage Floss Floraid
  - □□□□□□□□□□□ □□□□
- Kirastol Zenatse Philfaslato
  - □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□
- Miralofida Il Philfaslato
  - □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□
- Wuji Xiao
  - □□□□□□□□□
- Nanaremi Munogitagaharu
  - □□□□□□□□□□□□□

- U2R
    - (same in Japanese)
- Zone Dawn
    - □□□□□□□
- Duke Obrufas Guy Gurdran Walhascher
    - □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□
- Master Ral Ramad Grandle (Ramad)
    - □□□□□□□□□□□□□□
- Bias Li Carz (Krastateen Philfaslato)
    - □□□□□□□□□□□ (□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□)
- Oris Quart
    - □□□□□□□□□
- Lekmas Lehrich
    - □□□□□□□□□□
- Sir Neegusanger
    - □□□□□□□□□
- Major Heathrow Kristoff (The Knight of the Wind)
    - □□□□□□□□□□□□ (□□□□)
- Edworth Theseworks Markwhistle (ED)
    - □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

A couple of these guys are minor characters with no art, they're still worth mentioning, though. You can read more about the listed characters in the notes.

Notes

From now on I'll be going more in-depth on the books as a whole instead of focusing only on Kaneko stuff, hence this section is just called "Notes" instead of "Art Notes" now.

None of these art pieces have official names, the file names were chosen by me for storage purposes. The signatures date all of these pieces to the year 2001.

My scans were colour corrected in Photoshop, but the half-tones often blend weird in Google Drive's image preview and don't display how I intend them to. They should look fine once downloaded or opened in (most) image editing software.

Anything highlighted in black is a spoiler, just select the text to read it.